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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-01 AMZ-02 GM-02 IMBS-02 J-06 K-03 PHL-03 IO-02
IC-01 VLC-02 EP-02 P-01 RA-01 EAP-04 CONG-01
/034 A2 DOK

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AIT-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DPA-01 EAP-00
KA-03 H-01 IMRE-00 IHR-01 IO-19 L-03 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 OIC-02 OM-01 PA-01 PH-00 PRS-01 P-02
SMP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /RSIV

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R 181607Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4853
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AIT TAIPEI 0012
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
EC COLLECTIVE

CONFIDENTIAL ATHENS 03077

FOR: EUR/SE, EUR/VE, EAP/C, EAP/K, EAP/J, EAP/VLC,
EAP/AIT, EAP/IMBS, EAP/RA, IO/UHP

E.O. 12356; DECL:ODAR
TAGS: GR, CN, TH, RS, KH, JA, CB, UNGA, ASEAN, EC, PREL
SUBJECT: CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO GREECE;
- HENGQING EC FENCES

THE CHINESE EMBASSY HERE CIRCULATED A COPY OF A
SPEECH BY QIAN IN MADRID, PRAISING THE GOES FOR
ITS COMMITMENT TO BETTER RELATIONS AND
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE PRC'S RELATIONS WITH THE
EC NEEDED IMPROVEMENT.

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY:

2. CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN, AS PART OF
HIS FIRST TRIP TO EUROPE SINCE THE JUNE, 1989
TIEMANNEN INCIDENT, VISITED ATHENS MARCH 6.

B1

QIAN IN ATHENS

PRC FOREIGN
MINISTER QIAN JICHEN'S VISIT TO ATHENS ON THURSDAY,
MARCH 8--THE FIRST VISIT HERE BY A CHINESE FOREIGN
MINISTER IN SOME YEARS, AND QIAN'S FIRST TO EUROPE
SINCE THE JUNE, 1989 TIEMANNEN INCIDENT. QIAN MET
WITH PRIME MINISTER MITSOTAKIS, PRESIDENT PARAHARIS,
AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAMARAS.

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ATHENS 03077 DD OF 03 181602Z
THE GOV'S DECISION LAST YEAR TO UPGRADE ACCESS
FOR THE TAIWAN MISSION, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS BASED
STRICTLY ON THE HOPE OF ATTRACTING TRADE AND
INVESTMENT... [REDACTED]

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SOTIRIOS

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AFTER HIS MEETING WITH PRIME

MINISTER MITSOTAKIS, QIAN TOLD REPORTERS ONLY
THAT CYPRUS, AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE MID-EAST,
SHOULD BE SETTLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN
RESOLUTIONS. TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE, QIAN SHOWED
A SIMILARLY DETACHED ATTITUDE, COMMENTING ONLY
THAT THE REGIONS' PROBLEMS STEMMED FROM ERRORS
IN CARRYING OUT REFORMS (I.E., NOT FROM THE
COMMUNIST PAST) [REDACTED]

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11. AT A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH QIAN,
SAMARAS NOTED THAT GREEK-PRC TRADE HAD REACHED
"A RECORD LEVEL" OF DOLS 118 MILLION A YEAR, AND
SAID HE HAD ASKED QIAN TO TAKE MORE GREEK
EXPORTS. [REDACTED]

B1

ATHENS SPIN-DOCTORING

12. MOST PAPERS REPORTED QIAN'S VISIT, THOUGH
THE COVERAGE REFLECTED GREEKS' LOW LEVEL OF

INTEREST IN CHINA. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS
AGENCY (ANA) CAST IT AS A DIPLOMATIC
ACCOMPLISHMENT; ANA'S DAILY BULLETIN BANNED,
"VISITING CHINESE MINISTER BACKS GREEK STANCE ON
CYPRUS SOLUTION." REPORTING SAMARAS AND QIAN'S
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, ANA QUOTED PRAISE BY
SAMARAS FOR THE PRC AS "ALWAYS AT OUR COUNTRY'S
SIDE" ON CYPRUS IN THE UNSEC, BUT DID NOT MENTION
WHAT IF ANYTHING QIAN SAID ON THE SUBJECT

COMMENT

13. GREEK INTEREST IN CHINA AND OTHER EXOTIC
PLACES IS LARGELEY LIMITED TO PRACTICAL MATTERS.

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